



News to Use

February 2008

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Dear Colleagues

As you know, Governor Beshear released his Executive Budget, which includes a 12 percent (\$3 million) reduction for Kentucky Adult Education. The entire postsecondary education budget received similar deep reductions. The Governor and the Office of the State Budget Director both describe this as a “worse case scenario” budget. A final budget will be agreed upon at the end of the legislation session in mid-April.

It’s critically important that, as legislators consider budget options, they have all the information they need about adult education. This is a crucial time for you to inform and show your legislators how important adult education funding is to Kentucky’s future. You can spread the word locally, talk to your legislators and come to the KAACE legislative lunch on February 20. Invite your legislators to attend and bring your teachers and students who can tell the success stories that you see every day in their districts. More information is available at www.kaace.org.

KAACE is also sponsoring a student postcard campaign – it’s very important for legislators to hear from students who will be impacted by possible cuts. Details are available by [clicking here](#).

As we advocate for adult education funding, it’s essential that we demonstrate strong performance by our system. As promised in my July 2007 “Dear Colleagues” column, I intend to keep the issue of quality performance first and foremost in our minds as we all work together to improve student outcomes. We are more than halfway through the 2007-08 fiscal year, and it is a good time to check on how we are doing. Please see further details in “Statewide performance data” below. Also, remember to run your county performance reports on a regular basis to keep your eye on the performance of your program and see how your county is progressing compared to the state.

I’ve heard from many of you that you are trying new and exciting strategies to implement the quality objectives of our New Framework for Adult Education. I salute you for these efforts and for your determination to provide students a quality education.

I look forward to seeing you on February 20 at the KAACE luncheon.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Hindman Hawkes

Statewide performance data

Comparing the first two quarters of [NRS student performance data](#) for fiscal year 2007-2008 shows we progressed in achieving learning gains from October 2007 to January 2008. However, ABE levels 1, 2 and 3 are still well below our 2008 NRS performance goals as are Low, High and Advanced ESL. The lowest level students are often the hardest to serve and ESL students need special attention to help them achieve language skills. It is very important to strive to help these students meet their goals as well as your county goals and Kentucky's statewide goals.

The number of GEDs awarded has reached 5,115, an increase of 7 percent over this time last year and 10 percent compared to this time in fiscal year 2005-2006. Please remember that in fiscal year 2005-2006, the number of GEDs decreased for the first time since fiscal year 2002-2003. We are making progress, but we must keep climbing toward our statewide goal of 10,631 this fiscal year.

While enrollment has more than doubled since the first quarter of this year, we have much work to do to finish strong and achieve our statewide enrollment goal of 70,000 for this fiscal year. Enrollment increased over the last quarter, however more than 7,000 fewer students are enrolled in NRS levels now than in January 2007, resulting in a 31 percent decrease in NRS enrollments to date. Adult Education did much more just a year ago to retain students and move them into levels that produce learning gains. We can do it.

Online GED transcript requests

The GED transcript request process is now online – the address is www.ged.ky.gov or go to KYAE's Web site at www.kyae.ky.gov and click on the link under "Related Content" on the right side of the screen. Please encourage students to request transcripts online rather than completing a paper form.

An individual can complete the required information, pay for the transcript online with a MasterCard or Visa debit or credit card, sign the request electronically, and grant permission to mail the request to a third party. Requesting the transcript online greatly expedites the process.

Individuals who do not have a debit or credit card can complete the form online, print the request and mail it to KYAE with payment.

GED update

Discussing GED essay topics

It is a violation for a GED examinee or an adult education instructor to discuss a GED essay topic. This month an examinee's scores were voided as a result of discussing a topic with another examinee. Examinees initial the KYAE-6 form acknowledging they have read the Testing Misconduct Policy, which downloads from GED123.org and must be signed by each examinee.

Please stress to students that GEDTS™ and KYAE must protect the integrity of the GED including the essay topics. If a GED examinee begins to talk about any item on the GED, adult education instructors must stop the examinee immediately.

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Demographic Form Instructions

Students completing the GED demographic form online can omit some questions and simplify other questions as outlined below. [Click here](#) to link to instructions. Please make sure students are completing the state-specific questions.

Question

Your current status

Reason for testing

How did you learn about the test?

How did you prepare for the test?

Grades by subject

Courses by subject

Reasons for not completing school

Instruction

Mark most appropriate answer

Mark most appropriate answer

Mark most appropriate answer

Mark most appropriate answer

Omit

Omit

Mark one in each of the four categories

KEC processing

Please note that processing for the Kentucky Employability Certificates (KEC) is delayed due to KCTCS arranging signature logistics with the Office of the Governor. According to KCTCS, staff members are attempting to call those who submit applications to notify them of the delay. KYAE is staying in contact with KCTCS about this situation.

Programs can provide students with score reports if offering the computer or Internet-based assessments. KYAE encourages programs to discuss the acceptability of score reports with businesses in their area. The report is documentation of student achievement in the short term. Please contact Erika Larson at (502) 573-5114, extension 104, or erika.larson@ky.gov with specific concerns or questions.

PD no-shows to be contacted

Due to an increasing number of adult educators signing up for professional development workshops and failing to attend, KYAE will begin sending an e-mail to program directors when their staff members do not come to training for which they have registered. Program directors can already check staff members' course registration status by running a PD report in PDtrack.

Preparing for professional development sessions is costly and time consuming for KYAE staff and PD partners. For example, for a recent workshop, 17 people registered but only six participated. With a cost of \$300 per participant for materials, \$3,300 was wasted in putting together materials for an expected full class. In addition, when there is a waiting list for a PD session, no-shows prevent others from attending.

Scheduling conflicts and other barriers are inevitable and understandable, but if you do not plan to attend, please notify the workshop facilitator or Toni Quire at Toni.Quire@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 113, as early as possible.

KYVAE technical support

The Kentucky Virtual Campus (KYVC) has consolidated its technical helpdesk and call center under a single new number – (877) 740-4357. By dialing this number, callers will be routed to the technical helpdesk or the KYVC call center depending upon their need. Those needing help with KYVAE enrollment issues or questions about usernames and passwords should choose the option for the KYVC call center.

KYAE-KET student registration

KYAE and KET have 31 students enrolled in a unique partnership announced in January 2007. This option may appeal to students who are enrolled to earn a GED but are having problems attending or have stopped attending. This partnership may be the perfect solution to keep them involved and progressing. Full information and forms are available on the [KYAE Web page](#).

If your student has access to Insight Cable, your students may get free “On Demand” GED Connection programming, allowing them to make their own schedule.

For more information, please contact Sharon Jackson, KET, at (800) 538-4433 or s.jackson@morehead-st.edu.

Transitions report

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), U.S. Department of Education, has released a report on the proceedings of the [Adult Basic Education to Community College Transitions Symposium](#). The document supports OVAE’s College and Careers Transition Initiative, strengthening community colleges’ role in connecting secondary and postsecondary education. It recaps OVAE’s 2006 symposium featuring adult and postsecondary education experts who met in Washington to discuss a common mission – creating ways for adult students to transition effectively to postsecondary education and employment. The report continues the national dialogue on challenges to this transition and changes that help all students obtain the knowledge and skills to participate fully in our nation’s future.

Scholarships and financial aid information – please share with students

The following provides information on scholarships available through various organizations. Please share this information with your students and note the deadlines for applying.

Filing FAFSA early gives students better chance at state grants

Kentucky students who plan to attend an in-state college or university in the fall should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. Students who file early have a better chance of receiving a state need-based grant administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). The FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

State offers several student aid programs

Kentucky students who choose to attend college or technical school in the Commonwealth may be eligible for financial aid programs administered by KHEAA. Unlike many states, Kentucky offers student aid based on financial need as well as academic merit.

Kentucky’s need-based programs include the College Access Program (CAP) Grant and Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG). CAP grants may be used at all of Kentucky’s public and private colleges.

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KTG awards may be used at private Kentucky colleges. Students may apply for the CAP and KTG programs by completing the FAFSA (see above).

Perhaps the best known program is the merit-based Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). Students at certified Kentucky high schools earn college scholarships based on their yearly grade point average and their best ACT score. Home school graduates and GED graduates earn awards based on their ACT score.

KEES, CAP and KTG are funded by Kentucky Lottery revenues.

Another merit-based program is the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship. This federally funded scholarship is worth up to \$1,500 per year for four years and is available to high school and GED graduates. It may be used at any college or university in the United States. Students must be nominated by their guidance counselor or adult education provider. Students must apply online through their Zip Access account at www.kheaa.com.

KHEAA also administers the Teacher Scholarship (see below), Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship and Early Childhood Development Scholarship. Students may apply online for these scholarships through Zip Access.

State scholarship program helps students become teachers

Kentucky students who want to become teachers may qualify for a scholarship from KHEAA. Applicants must show financial need and must be enrolled full-time in a teacher education program at a participating Kentucky college to receive a KHEAA Teacher Scholarship. Teachers who are already certified are not eligible.

The amount a student may receive depends on funding and the student's year in school. The most a college junior or above may receive is \$2,500 for each spring and fall semester. If funds remain, college freshmen and sophomores may receive up to \$625 per semester. Recipients must teach at a school certified by the Kentucky Department of Education. Recipients who do not finish their teacher education program or do not teach at a certified Kentucky school must repay the scholarship with 6 percent interest.

Students who wish to apply must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a KHEAA Teacher Scholarship application. To complete the application, go to www.kheaa.com and log on through Zip Access. To file the FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students may request up to three copies of the paper FAFSA by calling (800) 4-FED-AID. KHEAA must receive the scholarship application and the FAFSA results by May 1. Recipients will be notified in early July.

Scholarships for immigrant and minority students

The Migrant Network Coalition has announced the "Achieving Dreams Scholarship." Eligibility requirements include a GED average of 450 or higher, acceptance or enrollment in a two- or four-year postsecondary institution, financial needs and leadership and community involvement. All immigrant and minority students are encouraged to apply. [Click here](#) for an application.

The expected award amounts range from \$500-\$1,000. The application deadline is April 30, 2008. Questions may be directed to erin.howard@kctcs.edu.

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Education at Work scholarships

The Education Cabinet notified KYAE that it has discontinued its annual Education at Work Scholarship program.

More scholarship information

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education and to access the FAFSA, go to www.GoHigherKY.org. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798; or call (800) 928-8926, extension 6-7381. For information about low-cost student loans, visit www.studentloanpeople.com; write The Student Loan People, P.O. Box 24328, Louisville, KY 40224-0328; or call (888) 678-4625.

JRA update

Counties with Job Readiness Activity (JRA) funds may request more funding to provide additional JRA classes. The initial allocation was based on caseload, but some counties have received enough referrals to justify additional classes. To request additional funding, please send a letter stating the amount of funding requested and the justification to Melissa Dickey, JRA associate, at Melissa.Dickey@ky.gov.

A [JRA Monthly Reporting Form](#) is posted on the KYAE Forms Web page. This form replaces all other forms previously distributed. It should be updated monthly and returned to Melissa by the 10th of each month.

Upcoming PD workshops

Please register for these upcoming professional development opportunities on [PDtrack](#).

Date	Workshop Title	Location
3/3-4	Foundations in Reading and Writing Instruction	Morehead
3/4	Bridges to Practice – Session I	Frankfort
3/6-7	Instructional Strategies for the Struggling Reader (GED/ ABE level)	Louisville
3/7	Foundations in Math – Day 1	Glasgow
3/14	Foundations in Math – Day 2	Glasgow
3/14	Scoring the GED Practice Test Essay	Morehead
3/14	WIN for Instructors	Web conference
3/28	WIN for Instructors	Web conference
3/28	CASAS Follow-up	Bowling Green
4/10	Developing Learning Stations for Math Instruction	Mt. Sterling
4/11	Developing Learning Stations for Learning Styles	Mt. Sterling
4/16	Program Planning in Adult Education: Bringing it all Together	Richmond
4/17	Program Planning in Adult Education: Bringing it all Together	Elizabethtown
4/18	KAELI Alumni Discussion Forum	Lexington
4/18	WIN for Instructors	Web conference
4/22	Bridges to Practice – Session II	Frankfort
4/24-25	New Teacher Institute – Phase II	Elizabethtown
5/9	Introduction to TABE and Diagnostic Tools	Mt. Sterling
5/19	Introduction to TABE and Diagnostic Tools	Versailles
6/2	Administering the GED Official Practice Test	Versailles
6/9	Administering the GED Official Practice Test	Mt. Sterling

NIE online course

The *Lexington Herald-Leader's* Newspaper in Education has purchased a special interactive online course to help teachers more effectively use the *Herald-Leader*, both the newspaper and eEDITION. Go to the KYAE Resources Web page and look for "Newspapers in Education Presents: Teaching with Newspapers" listed under "Curriculum and Teaching." For more information, contact Kriss Johnson, Newspaper in Education manager, at (859) 231-3353.

Call for presenters

ProLiteracy Worldwide is accepting [applications](#) to present at its annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, October 2-4, 2008. The organization is soliciting applications on the following topics: innovative instructional practices; numeracy; ESL and citizenship; student involvement and leadership; transitions; program improvement, accountability and innovative program practices; fund development, advocacy and marketing; and technology. The deadline is April 8.

Valuable links

The Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (CAAL) has released a report, "Pathways and Outcomes: Tracking ESL Student Performance," on a longitudinal study of adult ESL services at the City College of San Francisco. The primary focus is on persistence, learning gains and transition. The report is available at no charge from the CAAL Web site at www.caalusa.org.